

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 HEW-08 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 RSC-01 SCA-01 SCSE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 OPR-02 FBO-01 SS-15

NSC-10 RSR-01 /107 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7657

UNCLAS MEXICO 6390

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH/CASC/MX

SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE REPORT FOLLOW-UP

REF: MEXICO 6350

1. INTERNATIONAL PRESS REPORTS, PARTICULARLY US NEWS MEDIA, APPARENTLY EXAGGERATED BUT SITUATION IN AFFECTED AREA IS SERIOUS, APPROACHING DISASTER PROPORTIONS. LOCAL MEDIA INFORMATION ON CASUALTIES QUITE CONFUSING, VARYING BETWEEN SEVERAL HUNDRED TO SEVERAL THOUSAND.

2. PRESIDENT'S OFFICE HAS SET UP CONTROL POST BUT MOST DIFFICULT COMMUNICATE WITH THAT OFFICE. LATEST FIGURES AVAILABLE FROM THAT SOURCE GIVE 160 DEAD, SEVERAL HUNDRED INJURED. ANOTHER GOM SOURCE (SECRETARIAT COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT) INDICATES 350 DEAD AND 1231 INJURED.

3. DAMAGED CITIES AND TOWNS REPORTED AS BEING ORIZABA, COORDOBA, QUECHOLAC (EPICENTER ACCORDING TO LATEST REPORTS ALTHOUGH SOME MEDIA CITE ACATLAN, STATE OF PUEBLA AS EPICENTER) CIUDAD CERDAN, TECAMACHALCO, VARADERO, TEKNGO, STA. CATORINA VILLANUEVA.

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4. ACCORDING RED CROSS, HEALTH PROBLEMS MAY ARISE BECAUSE

CORPSES OF VICTIMS IN SMALL TOWNS WHERE HOUSES, BUILDINGS
IN RUINS, BEING COLLECTED IN OPEN TOWN SQUARE. FEDERAL
STATE AND OTHER ASSISTANCE CONVERGING UPON DISASTER AREA,
ALTHOUGH MEXICAN RESOURCES AVAILABLE DISASTER RELIEF ALREADY
STRAINED BY RECENT FLOODS.

5. COMMUNICATIONS STILL INTERRUPTED. MEXICO CITY MEDIA
RECEIVING DATA FROM SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS RUSHED TO SCENE
WHO CALLING IN FROM WHEREVER ABLE DO SO. CHANNEL 8 ADVISES
WILL BEAM SPECIAL REPORT TO STATES AT 2000 LOCAL TIME
(2200 HOURS EDST).

6. EMBASSY RECEIVING NUMEROUS CALLS FROM CONCERNED
RELATIVES AMCITS PRESENTLY IN MEXICO.

7. RE MEXICO CITY. LOCAL MEDIA CITE INTERNATIONAL PRESS
AS ERRONEOUSLY REPORTING SEVERE DAMAGE TO CAPITAL, FIRES
RAGING, POWER OUT, CREVASSES IN STREETS, MAJOR BUILDINGS,
INCLUDING PRESIDENTIAL PALACE DESTROYED OR DAMAGED. QUITE
TO THE CONTRARY, THE SITUATION IN MEXICO IS NORMAL
AS REPORTED IN MEXICO 6350. THERE WAS A POWER CURTAILMENT
OF SHORT DURATION AT 0400 HOURS, AFFECTING ONLY 15 PERCENT
OF CITY. SERVICE WAS RESTORED QUICKLY.

8. USIS PLANS SEND WRAP-UP LATER AUGUST 28. EMBASSY
PLANS FURTHER REPORT MORNING AUGUST 29.

9. NO REPEAT NO REPORTS HAVE REACHED US AS TO CASUALTIES
OR DAMAGE TO US CITIZENS OR PROPERTY AS OF COB AUGUST 28.

10. CORRECTION: MEXICO 6350 REPORTED INTENSITY AS 5.5
ON THE RICHTER SCALE. THIS IS CORRECT FOR MEXICO CITY
READING. INTENSITY AT EPICENTER HOWEVER WAS 7 TO 7.8
ON RICHTER SCALE, ACCORDING TO OTHER, LATER REPORTS.

11. AT TRANSMISSION TIME (1830 LOCAL) EMBASSY HAD BEEN UNABLE
CONFIRM DIRECTLY WITH OFFICE OF PRESIDENCY MEDIA REPORTS
THAT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAS DECLARED NATIONAL DISASTER
AND PUT NATIONAL DISASTER PLAN INTO EFFECT.

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